



November 15, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the over 1.5 million members and supporters of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, I urge you to vote YES on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. A vote for this bill is a vote for tax cuts that Republicans have promised and America's hardworking families desperately deserve. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will help struggling American families succeed in today's economy and make our job-creating businesses more competitive. To that end, we will score the vote on H.R. 1 as vote to cut taxes for ordinary Americans and as a vote to protect the free speech rights of the faith community. It is likely this vote will appear on our Congressional Scorecards and voter guides, of which we distributed over 30 million in 2016.

Since Congress passed tax reform over thirty years ago, the tax code has become riddled with corporate giveaways and provisions that benefit politically connected special interests at the expense of ordinary, middle class Americans. We cannot lose this once in a lifetime opportunity to make the tax code simpler and fairer, protect and support families, increase wages, promote job creation, and make American businesses more competitive.

H.R. 1 raises the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$1,600 and makes it available to more families by increasing the income eligibility thresholds to restore some of the value lost to inflation since the credit was last raised. This is very good and we applaud the bill's authors for it.

Doubling the standard deduction is another critical provision that will benefit ordinary families—many of which do not itemize their taxes.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also reduces the tax rate on the hard-earned income of small, family-owned businesses – the lowest tax rate on small business income since World War II. Mom and Pop businesses are the backbone of the American economy and the American family. Over 80% of new jobs are created by Main Street businesses and they need a tax rate that enables them to compete with Wall Street corporations. These small businesses are often family affairs and are a key component to supporting stronger, more secure families.

Finally, repealing the bigoted Johnson Amendment is long overdue. This clearly unconstitutional restriction on freedom of speech has been used by the Internal Revenue Service to harass, intimidate and persecute the faith community for over six decades. It is long past time to repeal it and we strongly support this legislation's provision restoring the full First Amendment rights of people of faith.

The bill also simplifies tax-filing, allowing most families to file their taxes on a simple one-page form. When honest citizens have to hire professionals to simply comply with a byzantine tax code, something has gone terribly wrong.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will fulfill Congress' promises to contain federal spending, reduce the tax burden on families and workers, and fuel the economic growth we so desperately need.

America's families have already waited too long for tax cuts that let them keep their hard earned dollars and care for their families. We must not fail them. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will simplify the code so that it is fairer for families and individuals, while also encouraging the economy to grow, leading to the creation of more jobs and higher wages.

For all these reasons, Faith & Freedom Coalition will include the vote on H.R. 1 in our Congressional Score and voter guides as a key vote in the 115th Congress.

Thank you for considering the views of our millions of members and supporters.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Head
Executive Director
Faith & Freedom Coalition